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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/700,874	01/02/2001	Kazuhisa Fujimoto	501.39293X00	8035

20457 7590 01/28/2004

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EXAMINER

MCLEAN MAYO, KIMBERLY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2187

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004

21

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/700,874

Applicant(s)

FUJIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly N. McLean-Mayo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18-31, 36-39, 41 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-16, 18-30, 36-39, 41 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7 and 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The enclosed detailed action is in response to the After-Final Response submitted on December 17, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 8-16, 18-30 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ninomiya et al. (USPN: 5,819,054).

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Ninomiya discloses a disk array controller (Figure 1) comprising a channel interface package in which at least a channel interface unit with a host computer and access path interface are packaged (Figure 1, Reference 1; the channel interface unit is the internal logic coupled to the host interface and the access path interface is the internal logic coupled to bus Reference 4 in Figure 1); a disk interface package in which at least a disk interface with a disk drive and an access path interface unit are packaged (Figure 1, Reference 2; disk interface is the internal logic coupled to Reference 5 in Figure 1 and the access path interface is the internal logic coupled to Reference 4); and a memory package in which a memory unit for storing control data for the disk drive and an access path interface unit are packaged (Figure 1, Reference 3; the access path interface unit is the internal logic coupled to Reference 4 in Figure 1); wherein connections are made between the access path interface unit in

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the channel interface package and the access path interface unit in the memory package and between the access path interface unit in the disk interface package and the access path interface unit in the memory package by ^{2nd different from 1st cables} cables (the connections are made between the access path interface unit in the channel interface package and the access path interface unit in the memory package and between the access path interface unit in the disk interface package and the access path interface unit in the memory package by cables (Reference 4 in Figure 1; a bus is a collection of wires used to connect internal components and thus the bus making the above connections is the cable).

Regarding claims 2 and 9, Ninomiya discloses the disk array controller comprising plural memory packages, wherein connections are made between the access path interface unit in the channel interface package and the access path interface unit in each of the plural memory packages by cables (Figure 1, Reference 3).

Regarding claims 3 and 10, Ninomiya discloses the plural memory packages interconnected by cables (Figure 1; each cache memory is coupled to the bus and thus are interconnected to each other via the bus, Reference 4 [cable] in Figure 1).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Ninomiya discloses that the memory units packaged in the plural memory packages store the same data (the same data stored in the memory packages is the same in that the data is received from the same sources).

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Regarding claims 5 and 12, Ninomiya discloses that power is supplied from different power supplies to the plural memory packages (C 7, L 36-52).

Regarding claims 13-16 and 18-21, Ninomiya discloses a disk array controller comprising a channel interface unit to be connected with a host computer (Figure 1, Reference 1; Figure 1 shows the channel interface unit connected to a host computer via a host interface); a disk interface unit to be connected with a disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 2; Figure 1 shows the disk interface unit connected to a disk drive); a memory interface unit for storing control data for the disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 3); an interface platter in which the channel interface unit and the disk interface are mounted (C 7, L 38-41); a memory platter in which the memory unit is mounted (C 7, L 38-41; part of the unit which stores the memory unit); a cable which couples the interface platter and the memory platter (Reference 4 in Figure 1); a selector unit, coupled with the channel interface unit, the disk interface unit and the memory unit, which selects requests from the channel interface unit and the disk interface unit (inherent, means is necessary in deciding which requests goes to what unit for proper functioning of the system); wherein a path coupling the channel interface unit to the cable is printed in the interface platter (inherent, internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55); wherein a path coupling the disk interface unit to the cable is printed on the interface platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55), and wherein a path coupling the memory unit to the cable is printed on the memory platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55)

Regarding claim 22, 27, 30 and 38-39, Ninomiya discloses plural channel interface units each of which is coupled with a host computer (each of References 1 in Figure 1); plural disk interface units each of which is coupled with a disk drive (each of References 2 in Figure 1); plural platters on each of which the channel interface unit, the disk interface unit and memory units are mounted (each of References 56 in Figures 6A, 6B); a cable which couples the plural platters (bus connection coupled to each Reference 56 via connectors on the backplane); wherein a path coupling the channel interface unit to the cable is printed on each of the plural platters (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55); wherein a path coupling the disk interface unit to the cable is printed on each of the plural platters (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55), and wherein a path coupling the memory unit to the cable is printed on each of the plural platters (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55).

Regarding claims 24-26 and 28-29, Ninomiya discloses a selector unit, connected with the channel interface unit, the disk interface unit and the memory unit which are mounted on one of the plural platters, which selects requests from the channel interface and the disk interface unit (inherent, means is necessary in deciding which requests goes to what unit for proper functioning of the system).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 36-37 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ninomiya (USPN: 5,819,054).

Regarding claims 36 and 41, Ninomiya discloses a disk array controller comprising a channel interface unit to be connected with a host computer (Figure 1, Reference 1; Figure 1 shows the channel interface unit connected to a host computer via a host interface); a disk interface unit to be connected with a disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 2; Figure 1 shows the disk interface unit connected to a disk drive); a memory interface unit for storing control data for the disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 3); an interface platter in which the channel interface unit and the disk interface are mounted (C 7, L 38-41); a memory platter in which the memory unit is mounted (C 7, L 38-41; part of the unit which stores the memory unit); a cable which couples the interface platter and the memory platter (Reference 4 in Figure 1); a selector unit, coupled with the channel interface unit, the disk interface unit and the memory unit, which selects requests from the channel interface unit and the disk interface unit (inherent, means is necessary in deciding which requests goes to what unit for proper functioning of the system); wherein a path coupling the channel interface unit to the cable is printed in the interface platter (inherent, internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55); wherein a path coupling the disk interface unit to the cable is printed on the interface platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55), and wherein a path coupling the memory unit to the cable is printed on the memory platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55). However, Ninomiya does not explicitly disclose that the interface platter is perpendicular to the memory platter. However, it is known in

the art that the lay out process for elements are implemented to obtain certain goals based such as space requirements, timing parameters, delays, etc. Hence, it would have been obvious to locate the interface platter perpendicular to the memory platter in Ninomiya's system to obtain specific design goals.

Regarding claims 37 and 42, Ninomiya discloses a disk array controller comprising a channel interface unit to be connected with a host computer (Figure 1, Reference 1; Figure 1 shows the channel interface unit connected to a host computer via a host interface); a disk interface unit to be connected with a disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 2; Figure 1 shows the disk interface unit connected to a disk drive); a memory interface unit for storing control data for the disk drive (Figure 1, Reference 3); an interface platter in which the channel interface unit and the disk interface are mounted (C 7, L 38-41); a memory platter in which the memory unit is mounted (C 7, L 38-41; part of the unit which stores the memory unit); a cable which couples the interface platter and the memory platter (Reference 4 in Figure 1); a selector unit, coupled with the channel interface unit, the disk interface unit and the memory unit, which selects requests from the channel interface unit and the disk interface unit (inherent, means is necessary in deciding which requests goes to what unit for proper functioning of the system); wherein a path coupling the channel interface unit to the cable is printed in the interface platter (inherent, internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55); wherein a path coupling the disk interface unit to the cable is printed on the interface platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55), and wherein a path coupling the memory unit to the cable is printed on the memory platter (inherent; internal wiring connection; C 8, L 5-15, L 29-55). Ninomiya does not disclose the memory

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platter located between the plural interface platters. However, it is known in the art that the layout process for elements are implemented to obtain certain goals based such as space requirements, timing parameters, delays, etc. Hence, it would have been obvious to locate the memory platter between the plural interface platters in Ninomiya's system to obtain specific design goals.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6-7 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly N. McLean-Mayo whose telephone number is 703-308-9592. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 - 6:30) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on 703-308-1756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-746-7329.

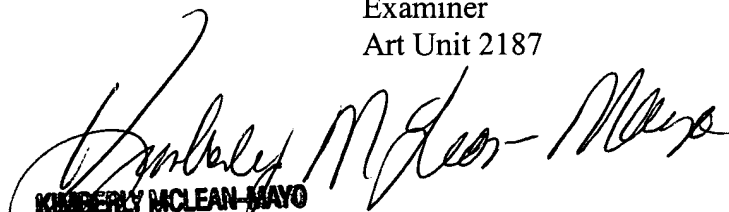
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2100.

Kimberly N. McLean-Mayo
Examiner
Art Unit 2187

KNM

January 23, 2004



KIMBERLY MCLEAN-MAYO
PRIMARY EXAMINER